



Atty. Dkt. No. 040679-1393

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kiyoshi AKUTAGAWA

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETECTING ROAD WHITE LINE
FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE

Appl. No.: 09/987,258

Filing Date: 11/14/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 2621

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on October 26, 2004. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the reference.

According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action, document A1 does not refer to "a smear edge detecting section that detects edge positions of a smear from a region of the generated edge image, which is determined based on a previously detected position of a white line position", claimed in Claim 1 of the subject application. However, the description, "the region, which is determined based on a previously detected white line position", is not clear as to what kind of region it is. The technology of document A1 also detects "smear edge position from the edge image" and deletes it. Hence, a person skilled in the art could easily arrive at the structure that "detects smear edge position from a region of edge image, which is determined based on a previously detected position of a white line position".

As noted, the characterizations of the Japanese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement with the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, an English language abstract is provided herewith. Consequently, the foreign language document has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and, therefore, the document should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

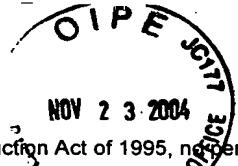
Respectfully submitted,

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<p style="text-align: center;">Substitute for form PTO-892</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>Date Submitted: November 23, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	1	Application Number	09/987,258
				Filing Date	11/14/2001
				First Named Inventor	Kiyoshi AKUTAGAWA
				Group Art Unit	2621
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	040679-1393

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Standard ST.15. For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year or the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.
⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁸Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.